

Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
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Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 12 – 14; please amend claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 15-22 and add new claims 23 - 30 as follows:

Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [1], wherein the system further comprises:

means for comparing the at least one ~~measured~~ characteristic value with at least one saved nominal value.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 25 [1], wherein the system further comprises:

means for saving at least one historical value for at least one of the plurality of components in at least one historical data set.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the system further comprises:

means for, ~~with the aid of a historical data set,~~ predicting the service life of a component using the at least one historical data set.

7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the system further comprises:

means for transferring one or more historical data set(s) to a central unit.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 30 [8], further comprising ~~comprises~~:

comparing the at least one ~~measured~~ characteristic value with at least one saved nominal value for ~~said~~ the at least one of the plurality of components; and

comparing the at least one ~~measured~~ characteristic value against ~~with~~ at least one saved maximum and a saved minimum value for ~~said~~ the at least one of the plurality of components.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 [8], further comprises:

giving the at least one message ~~one or more message(s) to an~~ to the operator and/or
saving at least one ~~one or more~~ error message(s) when the at least one ~~measured~~ characteristic value differs from the at least one saved nominal value by more than a predefined factor including when the at least one characteristic value and/or is not included between the smaller
~~than at least one saved minimum value and/or is greater than~~ the at least one saved maximum value.[,]

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 30 +3, wherein the plurality of electrical components, which are to be activated, in the user state can be selected by the ~~an~~ operator.

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16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in 15, wherein the plurality of electrical components is a part of all the electrical components further comprising:

~~dividing the method into a number of part operations, where a part operation can monitor a part of the vehicle or the vehicle combination.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the [a] control system activates the part operation ~~can be initiated automatically~~ when a particular predefined event takes place.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
saving characteristic values for the [a] part operation ~~in~~ as a data set.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
selecting one of a number of data sets of saved nominal values for comparing the measured characteristic values with the data set for the part.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:
saving historical values for at least one of the plurality of components ~~as in~~ at least one historical data set.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
predicting the service life of at least one of the plurality of [a] components with the aid of the [a] historical data set.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:
transferring at least one data set selected from a data set of characteristic values for a the part operation and[/or] at least one historical data set to a central database.

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23. (New) A system for monitoring electrical components of a vehicle to confirm that the electrical components operate properly, the system comprising:

an instrument including a display and a control unit;

a control system contained in the control unit to activate a plurality of electrical components for an activation time and in an activation sequence that allows an operator to walk around the vehicle to verify proper operation of each of the plurality of electrical components; and

an input device allowing the operator to give at least one message to the control system that further includes means for allowing the control system to give at least one message to the operator; and means for measuring at least one characteristic value for each of the plurality of electrical components.

24. (New) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the input device is selected from the group consisting of an electrically connected input unit and a remote transmitting unit.

25. (New) The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the operator sends a the at least one message to the control system for recording, by the means for measuring, of a nominal value for each of the plurality of electrical components included in the activation sequence, the means for measuring saving each the nominal value to provide at least one saved data set for a selected vehicle.

26. (New) The system as recited in claim 25, wherein the vehicle includes a tractor unit having connection physically and electrically for towing at least a first trailer unit.

27. (New) The system as recited in claim 26, wherein the data set includes nominal values for the tractor unit and the at least a first trailer unit.

28. (New) The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the at least a first trailer unit includes a plurality of different trailer units and the means for measuring saves a data set associated with each of the different trailer units.

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29. (New) The system as recited in claim 25, wherein the plurality of components is a plurality of light bulbs.

30. (New) A method for monitoring electrical components of a vehicle to confirm that the electrical components operate properly, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an instrument including a display and a control unit;

energizing a control system contained in the control unit to activate a plurality of electrical components for an activation time and in an activation sequence that allows an operator to walk around the vehicle to verify proper operation of each of the plurality of electrical components; and

supplying an input device having a menu system allowing the operator to give at least one message to the control system that further includes means for allowing the control system to give at least one message to the operator; and means for measuring at least one characteristic value for each of the plurality of electrical components.